

Appl. No. : 10/691,471
Filed : October 21, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, Applicant has amended the application as above. Claims 23-26 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form. No amendments have been made to the remaining pending claims. Upon the entry of the amendments, Claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 27-28, 30-35 and 37-48 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks set forth below.

Amendments After Final Rejection

The amendments to the claims are merely to cancel rejected Claims 23-26 or rewrite dependent Claim 45 in independent form. Thus, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Patentability of Pending Claims

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44 and 46-48 have been allowed, over the prior art of record, by the Examiner. Claim 45 has been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 45 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the features of base Claim 23. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 45 is allowable. In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, Applicant has cancelled rejected Claims 23-26. However, Applicant reserves the right to argue patentability of Claims 23-26 at a later date.

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant wishes to address the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in this Office Action mailed October 19, 2005. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims should be allowed based on the entire language rather than focusing on any specific portion thereof.

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CONCLUSION

In view of Applicant's cancellation of rejected Claims 23-26 and rewriting dependent Claim 45 in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/16/06

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